Schemes for tribals

691. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made towards ensuring that girls and boys of the Oraon, Munda, Santhali and Ho tribes populating Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega, Chaikasa and Dumka get into nursing courses; and

(b) whether any special scheme is there to bring these tribals at par with non-tribals in providing employment?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a Centrally sponsored scheme *viz.*, the Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme for tribal students. Under this scheme all recognized Post Matric Courses including nursing courses offered by recognized institutions are covered. The scheme covers all ST students of the country who fulfil the eligibility criteria, including those of Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega, Chaikasa and Dumka areas.

(b) The Ministry implements a Central Sector Scheme *viz.*, vocational training in tribal areas to develop the skills of tribal youth to enable them to be self employed/gain employment. Under another scheme, *viz.*, coaching and allied services, special coaching is provided to tribal students to enable them to sit for various competitive examinations to enter the civil services, banks etc.

Funds for State Governments

692. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped releasing funds to some State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have noticed laxity on the part of some State Governments in implementing tribal welfare schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures suggested to the State Governments for implementing the tribal welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The funds under the various schemes of this Ministry are released to the State Governments based on the proposals submitted by them, which are processed and sanctioned when they fulfil the eligibility conditions of the relevant schemes, subject to the availability of funds and utilisation of the previously released funds.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are expected to utilize the funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs within 12 months from the date of sanction. The utilisation position submitted by the States shows that most of them have utilized more than 75% of the amount released within the stipulated time limit.

The Ministry regularly monitors the implementation of various tribal welfare schemes through review meetings with the State Government officials and through personal visits and inspections by Ministry officials. In order to ensure that the funds released under the schemes of the Ministry are utilized properly and expeditiously the Ministry has further reiterated to the States that release of further funds would be dependent on utilisation of funds within the time limit prescribed for the purpose.

Funds Allocated to backward tribes of Chhattisgarh

†693. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major portion of the sanctioned amount to provide furnished accommodation to particular backward tribes of Chhattisgarh remains to be allocated; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for allocating the same?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned and released an amount of Rs. 110.00 lakh during 2005-06 to the Government of Chhattisgarh for providing housing to Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) under the scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups. Against this amount, the State Government allocated Rs. 94.60 lakh on 22.12.2005 and Rs. 15.40 on 11.5.2006 to implementing agencies for providing housing facility to 473 and 77 PTG families, respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.